

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2769

Introduced by Assembly Member Zettel

February 25, 2000

An act to amend Sections 35550 and 35551.5 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2769, as introduced, Zettel. Vehicles: gross weight limits.

(1) Existing law prohibits, under certain circumstances, the gross weight upon any one wheel of a vehicle from exceeding 10,500 pounds. Vehicles with loads that consist of livestock are exempted from that prohibition.

This bill would expand the exemption to include vehicles with loads that consist of garbage or refuse.

(2) Under existing law, the gross weight imposed upon the highway by the wheels on any one axle of a vehicle may not exceed 18,000 pounds.

This bill would increase that weight limit to 20,000 pounds.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 35550 of the Vehicle Code is
2 amended to read:
3 35550. (a) The gross weight imposed upon the
4 highway by the wheels on any one axle of a vehicle shall

1 not exceed 20,000 pounds and the gross weight upon any
2 one wheel, or wheels, supporting one end of an axle, and
3 resting upon the roadway, shall not exceed 10,500 pounds.

4 (b) The gross weight limit provided for weight
5 bearing upon any one wheel, or wheels, supporting one
6 end of an axle shall not apply to vehicles ~~the~~ with loads
7 ~~of which~~ that consist of livestock, *garbage, or refuse*.

8 (c) The maximum wheel load is the lesser of the
9 following:

10 (1) The load limit established by the tire
11 manufacturer, as molded on at least one sidewall of the
12 tire.

13 (2) A load of 620 pounds per lateral inch of tire width,
14 as determined by the manufacturer's rated tire width as
15 molded on at least one sidewall of the tire for all axles
16 except the steering axle, in which case paragraph (1)
17 applies.

18 SEC. 2. Section 35551.5 of the Vehicle Code is
19 amended to read:

20 35551.5. (a) The provisions of this section shall apply
21 only to *vehicle* combinations ~~of vehicle which~~ that
22 contain a trailer or semitrailer. Each vehicle in ~~such~~ the
23 combination of vehicles, and every ~~such~~ combination of
24 vehicles, shall comply with either Section 35551 or with
25 subdivisions (b), (c), and (d) of this section.

26 (b) The gross weight imposed upon the highway by
27 the wheels on any one axle of a vehicle shall not exceed
28 ~~18,000~~ 20,000 pounds and the gross weight upon any one
29 wheel, or wheels, supporting one end of an axle and
30 resting upon the roadway, shall not exceed 9,500 pounds,
31 except that the gross weight imposed upon the highway
32 by the wheels on any front steering axle of a motor vehicle
33 shall not exceed 12,500 pounds. The gross weight limit
34 provided for weight bearing upon any one wheel, or
35 wheels, supporting one end of an axle shall not apply to
36 vehicles the loads of which consist of livestock. The
37 following vehicles are exempt from the front axle weight
38 limits specified in this subdivision:

39 (1) Trucks transporting vehicles.

40 (2) Trucks transporting livestock.

- 1 (3) Dump trucks.
- 2 (4) Cranes.
- 3 (5) Buses.
- 4 (6) Transit mix concrete or cement trucks, and trucks
- 5 that mix concrete or cement at, or adjacent to, a jobsite.
- 6 (7) Motor vehicles that are not commercial vehicles.
- 7 (8) Vehicles operated by any public utility furnishing
- 8 electricity, gas, water, or telephone service.
- 9 (9) Trucks or truck tractors with a front axle at least
- 10 four feet to the rear of the foremost part of the truck or
- 11 truck tractor, not including the front bumper.
- 12 (10) Trucks transporting garbage, rubbish, or refuse.
- 13 (11) Trucks equipped with a fifth wheel when towing
- 14 a semitrailer.
- 15 (12) Tank trucks which have a cargo capacity of at
- 16 least 1,500 gallons.
- 17 (13) Trucks transporting bulk grains or bulk livestock
- 18 feed.
- 19 (c) The total gross weight with load imposed on the
- 20 highway by any group of two or more consecutive axles
- 21 of a vehicle in such combination of vehicles or of such
- 22 combination of vehicles where the distance between the
- 23 first and last axles of the two or more consecutive axles is
- 24 18 feet or less shall not exceed that given for the
- 25 respective distance in the following table:

27	Distance in feet	Allowed load in
28	between first and	pounds on group
29	last axles of group	of axles
30	4	32,000
31	5	32,000
32	6	32,200
33	7	32,900
34	8	33,600
35	9	34,300
36	10	35,000
37	11	35,700
38	12	36,400
39	13	37,100
40	14	43,200



1	15	44,000
2	16	44,800
3	17	45,600
4	18	46,400

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6 (d) The total gross weight with load imposed on the
 7 highway by any vehicle in such combination of vehicles
 8 or of such combination of vehicles where the distance
 9 between the first and last axles is more than 18 feet shall
 10 not exceed that given for the respective distances in the
 11 following table:

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13	Distance	Allowed load
14	in feet	in pounds
15	19	47,200
16	20	48,000
17	21	48,800
18	22	49,600
19	23	50,400
20	24	51,200
21	25	55,250
22	26	56,100
23	27	56,950
24	28	57,800
25	29	58,650
26	30	59,500
27	31	60,350
28	32	61,200
29	33	62,050
30	34	62,900
31	35	63,750
32	36	64,600
33	37	65,450
34	38	66,300
35	39	68,000
36	40	70,000
37	41	72,000
38	42	73,280
39	43	73,280
40	44	73,280

1	45	73,280
2	46	73,280
3	47	73,280
4	48	73,280
5	49	73,280
6	50	73,280
7	51	73,280
8	52	73,600
9	53	74,400
10	54	75,200
11	55	76,000
12	56 or over	76,800

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14 (e) The distance between axles shall be measured to
15 the nearest whole foot. When a fraction is exactly six
16 inches, the next larger whole foot shall be used.

17 (f) The gross weight limits expressed by this section
18 shall include all enforcement tolerances.

19 (g) Nothing in this section shall affect the right to
20 prohibit the use of any highway or any bridge or other
21 structure thereon in the manner and to the extent
22 specified in Article 4 (commencing with Section 35700)
23 and Article 5 (commencing with Section 35750) of
24 Chapter 5 of Division 15.

25 (h) The Legislature, in enacting this section, does not
26 intend to increase, and this section shall not be construed
27 to allow, statutory weights any greater than existed prior
28 to January 1, 1976.

